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MEDIEVAL BOOK OF HOURS CALENDAR LEAF, c. 1450 - NOVEMBER

IM-8912: (124 x 90mm) Original leaf from a medieval manuscript **Book of Hours**. 16 and 17 lines of text, ruled in red, written in Latin with dark brown ink on animal vellum. Major feast days in **red** (**origin of term 'red-letter day'**). Large **"KL" initials** (for KALENDS) are in burnished gold on a deep blue ground with delicate white tracery, surrounded by a red border with delicate white tracery.

Flanders, c. 1450 - produced to follow the English rites, for the English market.

Among the feasts listed are *All Saints' Day* (1st), *All Souls' Day* (2nd), **St. Leonard** (6th – no fewer than 177 churches are dedicated to him in England), **St. Martin** (11th), **St. Brice** (13th), **St. Cecilia** (22nd – Patron saint of poets and singers), **St. Clement** (23rd – 43 churches are dedicated to him in England including St. Clement Danes in London), **St. Katherine of Alexandria** (25th – Patron Saint of Preachers and Philosophers) and **St. Andrew** (30th – **Patron Saint of Scotland** and Weddings).

Left of the saints' days are repeating letters A - G called **Dominical Letters** since they help find Sundays. Far left is a column of Roman numerals i - xix called **Golden Numbers** to indicate appearances of new moons, & counting ahead 14 days, full moons throughout the year (year + 1; divide by 19; remainder is Golden Number - if zero GN = 19). Finally: each month had 3 fixed points: Kalends (1st day) Ides (middle) & Nones (9th day before Ides). All days in between were counted **backwards** from these points.